

HOUSE No. 1010

By Ms. Fox of Boston, petition of Gloria L. Fox and others for legislation to establish multiple assessment instruments for high school graduation requirements. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Gloria L. Fox	Douglas W. Petersen
Frank I. Smizik	Ruth B. Balser
Anne M. Paulsen	Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE USE OF MULTIPLE ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, AND TO ENSURE SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY AND STUDENT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The first paragraph of section 1D of chapter 69
2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2002, Official Edition,
3 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence:— Under no
4 circumstances shall any student be denied a high school diploma
5 based on his/her outcome in a sole assessment instrument. Under
6 no circumstances shall any student be denied promotion from one
7 grade to the next based on his outcome in a sole assessment
8 instrument, the student shall be provided an alternative manner in
9 which to demonstrate attainment of the promotional standards for
10 any such grade level.

1 SECTION 2. The third paragraph of section 1I of said
2 chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following two sentences:— The competence determination upon
4 which high school graduation is conditioned under the Education

5 Reform Act shall be understood to include multiple and authentic
6 assessment instruments whereby a student is afforded the opportu-
7 nity to demonstrate his/her attainment of the Curriculum Frame-
8 works and Learning Standards in the manner in which he is best
9 suited to demonstrate such skills. The Massachusetts Comprehen-
10 sive Assessment System, or any other system developed for the
11 purposes of competency determination, shall not be used for the
12 purposes of denying a high school diploma unless a student has
13 first entered the school system in Kindergarten 1 after the adop-
14 tion of the Curriculum Frameworks. Under no circumstances shall
15 any assessment instrument, such as the MCAS, used for the pur-
16 poses of competency determination, be used as a criterion for high
17 school graduation until such time as no disparate impact exists
18 between the outcomes of white and minority students. Under no
19 circumstances shall any assessment instrument, such as the
20 MCAS, be used for the purposes of competency.